

## FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>	Messrs. N. Friswell, G. Sitton, G. Stanley, B. Travers, A. Worley Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman), Ms J. Dumbrell
<b>District Councillors</b>	1 Dr. D. Skipp
<b>County Councillors</b>	1 CC Mr. A. Baldwin
Public	1
Press	0
<b>Apologies</b>	DC Mr. G. Newman, CC Mrs. M. Millson, Mr. M. Hough

Mrs. Sumpter opened the Meeting by introducing Mr. Worley and it was proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Travers that Mr. Worley is co-opted to this Council. HDC will be advised. Mr. Worley gave an outline of his interests and explained that he had been the Public Relations Officer for the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign and has a keen interest in this subject.

### **01.564.17 Minutes of Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton and seconded by Mrs. Sumpter.

### **02.564.17 Matters Arising**

#### **03.533.16 Bus Shelter at Melksham Close**

DC Dr. Skipp is confident that HDC Mr. Nigel Weston is moving forward with this and there is reasonable confidence that there is Section 106 money available (County 106 money). CEO Tom Crowley has confirmed that HDC will take over the maintenance project.

Separately it was decided that, whilst there is a need for a shelter close by Ayshe Court flats, this will be pursued once the Melksham Close bus shelter is installed.

#### **06.533.17 Litter – Pigeon Droppings under Iron Bridge**

To date there has been no response to any of the e mails to HDC John McArthur although HDC John Batchelor did pass on the information regarding the British Rail contact, Ms. Lisa Lannidinardo to the Cleansing Department.

**Resolved CC Mr. A. Baldwin volunteered to pursue the matter on this Council's behalf. He believes that regular road cleansing stops at The Iron Bridge but will ascertain how often the road beyond (Queensway/Queen Street) is swept.**

#### **06.562.17 Ayshe Court Lakes**

DC Dr. Skipp has now walked the path route to look at the perceived fence issues. He was concerned that there is no fence on one side of the footpath and he is now arranging a meeting with HDC Evan Giles to look at the issue from a "health and safety" perspective (this would be a way in which HDC could become involved). Mr. Friswell suggested that to fence the path in on both sides may change the "scene" but the consensus of opinion is that this path is increasingly used by school children attending Kingslea School and the hazard is the most important point.

**07.563.17 Ice Rink**

In answer to a question concerning the size of the Ice Rink, DC Dr. Skipp believes the size is as agreed by HDC Planning. The trenches that are currently being dug are for utilities. HDC has said that it will make sure that the access to paths to Horsham Park will in future be kept clear of mud and therefore useable at all times.

**07.563.17 Car Parking**

A further letter has been sent to DC Gordon Lyndsey explaining the reasons why Forest Neighbourhood Council wrote the first letter – as representatives for residents within the neighbourhood. Denne NC raised the matter at a meeting with HDC Chris Lyons and he has agreed to discuss the first response with DC Gordon Lyndsey and HDC Ben Golds. (As at 15<sup>th</sup> October there has been no reply).

**07.562.17 North Street Subway**

Extremely slow progress is being made with the problems but nevertheless the matter is ongoing.

**08.562.17 Public Forum – Station Road into North Street**

Following on from the member of public's concern, Denne Neighbourhood Council has also noted that the road system is not being adhered to.

**Resolved that Mr. C. Stark and Mr. M. Davy will be contacted again. CC Mr. Andrew Baldwin also agreed to follow up the issue.**

**05.563.17 County Councillor's Report – areas around New Street etc.**

20 mph zone – this Council will support the proposal for a 20 mph restriction zone. It is accepted that FNC will need to arrange a "letter drop" to gauge residents' feelings and Mrs. Sumpter suggested this takes place in January 2018.

**Regarding sight lines in Brighton Road** – the length of the double yellow lines running alongside the Gorings Mead entrance do not extend in length to comply with rulings.

**Resolved to pursue this matter**

**09.563.17 Any Other Business**

**Burtens Court** – it is ironic that on the day after this Council discussed anti-social behaviour, broken windows and the unkempt appearance at Burtens Court, there was a murder at the site. DC Dr. Skipp said this is a London and Quadrant building and that all the issues are being taken seriously by HDC. He will again be discussing this with CEO Mr. Crowley.

**Boxall Walk** – DC Godfrey Newman visited the path and took photographs to show the extent of the problem. The surface is completely uneven and exacerbated by the utility boxes that have been erected for the new houses. It is presumed that the developers thought that WSCC would tarmac the path. In its current state (and with the loose fencing) it is definitely a hazard and cannot be used by wheelchair users.

**Resolved to now write a letter to CC Mrs. Millson, enclosing a photograph asking that all the previously raised matters are now addressed**

### **Pirie's Place re-development and car park**

DC Dr. Skipp reported that one storey is now being removed from the proposed hotel and there are initial plans to alter/re-build the car park. The plan is that the car park changes are made at the same time as the development of Piries Place. DC Dr. Skipp does not think that the development will spoil the skyline from Carfax. One Councillor commented that he was disappointed that the central area of Piries Place is to be reduced in size. The statue is definitely being retained but may be re-positioned.

#### **03.564.17 Public Forum**

The member of public asked that County is informed that the hedge in Barrington Road needs cutting back as he believes this is affecting the sight view of car drivers.

**Resolved CC Mr. Baldwin will follow up this matter even though it is outside his area. (Following on from the meeting, Mr. Baldwin has written to Highways advising that the overgrown area is beside the Electricity Substation and whilst there is no pavement there, cars do park on the opposite side of the road leaving a very narrow road width for cars to manoeuvre).**

#### **04.564.17 District Councillor's Report**

DC Dr. Skipp referred to "Horsham Vision" and the fact that resident responses are now being collated. Mr. Friswell agreed to look at the relevant website and Denne NC response was noted. (Separately interested parties now have the option to respond to the first consultation report).

#### **05.564.17 County Councillor's Report**

CC Mr. Baldwin updated this Council about the travel safety issues at The Forest School. He referred to the catalyst where a child was injured when a school bus reversed and had this child not been wearing a cycle helmet, the outcome would have been far more serious. There are ideas for a change to the road system, allowing the construction of a bus layby but realistically and with Highways agreement; this is unlikely to be installed before August 2019. In the meantime there may be a temporary solution involving widening the staff car park entrance which will allow buses to reverse into the area.

Introducing a 20 mph speed limit around The Forest School is being pursued by The Headteacher.

Regarding zig zag lines, CC Mr. Baldwin will ascertain whether if cars are illegally parked, it is enforceable and if so, by whom?

*Following on from the meeting CC Mr. Baldwin contacted Miles Davy, copying Ben Golds, explaining that if cars are parked on the zig zag lines, it is enforceable. However, it is a question of staff enforcement availability. Miles Davy, WSCC, questions whether cars are parking on zig zag lines outside of school drop-off and pick-up times?*

**06.564.17 Planning**

17/2018	South Grove House	Various repairs and improvements – full application	N/O
17/2039	28 Devonshire Road	Replace side extn & loft conversion	N/O
17/2051	Horsham Rugby Club	Minor amendments to 15/0782	N/O
17/1593	1 Bens Acre	Change of fence line to incorporate open land within curtilage of property	HFNC would normally object to what is effectively “land grabbing”. However, having perused the plans no objection is made.
17/2088	Land East of Old Park, Kerves Lane	Convert garage into office space	HFNC objects to this proposal. Whilst claiming to be an office, it is fitted with all facilities and could therefore be used as accommodation, something that would not have been allowed in the original application.
17/1203	92 Oakhill Road	Amendments to original application	One has to wonder how a change from a detached new dwelling to a semi-detached dwelling is considered as an amendment – but it might be a better option.
17/2179	56 Forestfield	Erect single & two storey side and front extensions	N/O
17/2188	93 Clarence Road	Rear & side single storey extension	N/O
17/2144	7 Harwood Court	Loft conversion	N/O
17/2190	46 Comptons Lane	2 Solar panels to each of 4 dwellings	N/O
17/2148	Century House, Station Road	Demolish existing building & erect six storey dwelling with 49 units of accommodation	See comments below
<p>HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal. Horsham does not need a huge tower block at one of its main entrances to the town, if it is to retain its “market town” appeal. Neither does it need any more 1bed apartments, especially in this location, where over 100 have recently been developed.</p> <p>HFNC is also concerned that the scheme has been developed to such an extent that the parking spaces are well outnumbered by the dwellings. Previous schemes have at least had an equal ratio of parking to properties, this has now been totally disregarded.</p> <p>We find it bizarre that properties should have balconies with a view of the traffic jam that is the daily ritual, both morning and evening, on the way into town. The Air Quality Assessment and Low Emissions Management Plan was a work of pure comedy.</p> <p>Looking to the future, there should be more charging points for vehicles</p>			

Mr. Travers reported an appeal that has been lodged for three two-storey 4-5 bedroom detached dwellings in Church Lane, Mannings Heath (DC/0815/17). He believed that this appeal will challenge the purpose of neighbourhood plans because Nuthurst Neighbourhood Plan specifically refers to affordable housing in the village. However DC Dr. Skipp said that there may be a problem because there is some ambiguity as to whether Nuthurst Neighbourhood Plan incorporates this part of Church Lane.

Kebab Shop, Queen Street – this appeal has been refused.

11 Weald Close – the appeal has allowed the fence removal (Mrs. Sumpter declared an interest throughout this application and was not therefore involved in discussions)

1a Clarence Road – subject to appeal to build a block of apartments rather than semi detached houses

55 Smithbarn – HDC refused permission for the multi extension proposal but this is now subject to appeal

64 Comptons Lane – an appeal has been lodged

**124 Brighton Road** – this appeal for the house to be converted to flats and altering the purpose of the outbuilding, has been allowed. However, there still seems to be confusion about the outbuilding. Mrs. Sumpter agreed to pursue the matter, including the new application DC/1856/17.

DC/17/1325 and DC/17/2280 – 25 St. Leonard’s Road – the second application is described as a non-material amendment but is proposing to change the garage door into a domestic door and therefore the part of the application, “garage” becomes obsolete.

**Resolved to ask HDC Dr. Lyons for a response to this Council’s original letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> September asking for an explanation as to why this application was originally permitted even though the first application was for a less obtrusive development**

#### **06.564.17 Treasurer’s Report**

Current Account £5,466.46, Reserve Account £1,281.23. The Clerk’s honorarium and expenses have been paid for the months, September and October and the agreed further insurance premium has been paid to Zurich Insurance.

#### **07.564.17 Correspondence**

Sandeman Way footpath – HTCP would like this footpath to be upgraded. If this goes ahead, it will be very important that there are barriers and highly visible signs are strategically placed showing that the footpath exits on to a main road.

HDC – global address – Neighbourhood Councils are now to be incorporated into the HDC parish global address network.

#### **08.564.17 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

HTCP – At the AGM, Mrs. Sumpter agreed to continue as Treasurer. It is noted that DC Dr. Skipp has now resigned from this group. Mr. David Searle is now the Chairman, following Mrs. Apostolou’s resignation. Mrs. Sumpter said that Mrs. Apostolou was thanked for all the

work that she has carried out to ensure the success of HTCP since its inception and especially work carried out on the River Walk.

Blueprint – Blueprint is encountering many issues, including member numbers and lack of funding. There is to be a “brainstorming session” on 19<sup>th</sup> October and Mrs. Sumpter will attend.

Mrs. Sumpter also advised that she together with representatives of Denne and Trafalgar NC have now had a meeting with Mr. Adam Chalmers who has taken over the HDC role that was previously carried out by Mrs. Natalie Brahma-Pearl.

HALC – Mr. Stanley attended the Meeting and the official Minutes have been circulated. He specifically referred to the discussions about the impact of parking charges (*this Council has written to HDC stating its objections to the charges at the Roffey Car Park as even though this is not in FNC area, it is impacting on our residents*)

#### **09.564.17 Any Other Business**

**Depot Road** – following on from discussions with WSCC about possible ways to improve car parking issues in Depot Road, a member of the public has forwarded a detailed letter with suggested ideas that specifically refer to areas around Millais School. He is concerned that the illegal use of the bus layby by domestic car owners is causing serious safety issues and that some car users are reversing and turning around in the layby after collecting their children from school – not using the preferred route at this time of day.

FNC Councillors Mr. Sitton and Ms Dumbrell agreed to assess the letter plus proposals in line with those that have already been discussed with WSCC Miles Davy. It is also agreed that they will try to arrange a meeting with The Headteacher and at that time will ask her to write to parents explaining the current dangerous situation in Depot Road at school opening and closing times, plus the preferred route for car drivers (subsequent to meeting with Dr. Dennis).

**Re-cycling** – this Council adds its disappointment to the fact that recent notices attached to wheelie bins highlighting the importance of recycling, are themselves not recyclable. The reason that has been given is that a recyclable notice would not have been sufficiently stable to attach to a bin. It is also noted that the matter is being well discussed in the local newspaper with readers expressing very negative comments.

**Youth matters** – Mr. Hough has advised that Liz Burt is resigning from her role but he is very happy that Ruth Hodgson is now taking up this role.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.